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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 32900 171123Z

14
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 DHA-02 ORM-02

AID-05 /094 W
---------- 068313
R 171112Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6156
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 32900

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CB, FR, JA
SUBJECT: CAMBODIA: REPORTS ON EXILE POLITICS AND
RESISTANCE

REF: BANGKOK 26068

SUMMARY: EMBASSY PARIS BELIEVES THAT JAPANESE REPORTS ON CAMBODIAN "RESISTANCE" LACK SUBSTANCE AND INDIVIDUALS CITED REPRESENT NO CENTER FOR ANY EFFECTIVE ACTIONS AGAINST THE KC. IF SIHANOUK DECIDES TO ABANDON HIS CURRENT ROLE, IT WILL PROBABLY BE FOR QUIET EXILE IN FRANCE RATHER THAN TO LEAD A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING, WITH LIMITED ATTENTION, THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS CAMBODIAN EXILE FIGURES SUCH AS THOSE MENTIONED IN THE JAPANESE REPORTS WHICH WERE THE SUBJECT OF REFTEL. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THE PERSONS CITED NOR THE OTHER EXILE FIGURES IN
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PAGE 02 PARIS 32900 171123Z

PARIS CONSTITUTE A CENTER FOR ANY COHESIVE EXILE MOVE-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

MENT MUCH LESS ANY EFFECTIVE RESISTANCE TO THE CURRENT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT, EITHER ON THE DIPLOMATIC SCENE OR WITHIN CAMBODIA. WE HAVE YET TO SEE ANY INDICATION THAT "GROUPS" HERE ARE IN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH "RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS" INSIDE CAMBODIA. WHILE CAMBODIANS HERE FREQUENTLY CONJURE WITH THE NAME OF GENERAL NORODOM CHANTERANGSEY, READERS WILL BE AWARE FROM OTHER REPORTS THAT IT IS LIKELY, BUT NOT CONFIRMED, THAT HE IS DEAD.

2. WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM THE SORT OF CONTACTS AND DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY OF THE EXILES WHICH APPARENTLY FORM THE BASIS FOR THE JAPANESE REPORTS BECAUSE OF THE PROPENSITY OF THESE ISOLATED INDIVIDUALS TO CLAIM ANY CONVERSATION CONSTITUTES PROMISES FROM THE USG OF MATERIAL SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY ARMS AND MEDICINES. THIS HAS NOT PREVENTED SEVERAL OF THE EXILES FROM CLAIMING REGULAR CONTACT WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS FORMERLY INVOLVED WITH CAMBODIA. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS SIMILARLY FOUND THAT EVEN CONTACTS FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES ARE DISTORTED BY THE CONTACT INTO CLAIMS OF OFFICIAL GOF SUPPORT. IN ADDITION, ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR POLITICAL EXILE IN FRANCE IS THAT THE REFUGEE NOT ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES; WE DO NOT WISH THE GOF TO CONCLUDE FROM EVEN INNOCENT US CONTACTS WITH SOME OF THESE FIGURES THAT WE ARE IN ANY WAY ENCOURAGING RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE OPERATING FROM FRENCH SOIL. IN SHORT, WE THINK THAT THERE IS NO ACTIVITY HERE WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY THE ATTENTION WHICH THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS APPARENTLY GIVEN TO THESE POOR EXILES.

3. AS FOR THE FOUR CITED OFFICIALS, WE CONSIDER THEY INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT VERY LITTLE. THEY RANGE FROM DEVOTED ROYALISTS SUCH AS BUOR HORL TO A FORMER GRK OFFICER (EA CHHONG) WHO HAS NOW MADE HIS PEACE WITH THE ROYALISTS. WE ARE UNACQUAINTED WITH A COLONEL KIM MENG, BUT BELIEVE HE MAY BE THE FORMER MILITARY AIDE TO SIHANOUK, TIM NAING. WHILE MOST "RESISTANCE" FIGURES NOW FIND IT USEFUL TO LOOK TO CONFIDENTIAL



SIHANOUK AS A FUTURE LEADER, AT LEAST ONE RELATIVELY UNKNOWN COLONEL,KEO SOUVATTHANA, CLAIMED TO HAVE FORMED A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE ON NOVEMBER 27 WITH SON NGOC THANH AND IN TAM AS LEADERS.

4. DESPITE THE FREQUENT CLAIM OF SUCH "RESISTANCE FIGURES" TO BE SPEAKING FOR SIHANOUK, WE DOUBT THAT SIHANOUK IS SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE THAT ANY PURPOSE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

COULD BE SERVED BY ASSOCIATING WITH THEM. WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY THAT SIHANOUK WOULD SEEK QUIET EXILE IN FRANCE (PERHAPS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS CURRENT TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA TO GET AWAY) THAN THE ROLE OF LEADER -- WITHOUT FOLLOWERS -- OF A HOPELESS INTRIGUE AGAINST THE KC.
RUSH

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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